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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

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Better Weather Brightens Crop Outlook

Crop prospects were brighter in early May after discouraging conditions during much of April. Farm work and development of crops made rapid progress when the weather turned favorable latter part of April. Winter wheat had continued to deteriorate in the dry portions of the Great Plains until rain and warm weather brought a turn for the better...insect damage lessened and growth was stimulated, bringing improved prospects on remaining stands.

Wheat Estimate Down From Last Month

Winter wheat crop is now estimated at 682 million bushels, off 44 million from the April estimate. Production last year, 751 million; 10-year average, 792 million. Nearly 27 percent of the winter wheat acreage will not be harvested for grain as compared with about 23 percent estimated a month ago. Abandoned last year about 17 percent; average abandonment about 10 percent. Winter wheat acreage now indicated for harvest, 41 million. Harvested last year 44 million acres.

Conditions Favorable for Spring Wheat

Conditions in the main spring wheat area appeared favorable for seeding intended acreages. (Production estimates for spring wheat will be reported in June.)

Rye Crop About Same As Last Year

Rye production indicated at 23.3 million bushels compares with 23 million last year and 30.2 million 10-year average. Below average acreage planted. Acreage this year, 1,818,000; last year, 1,822,000; 10-yr. average, 2,448,000.

Oats Condition Only Fair

Oats condition (10 Southern States) 58 percent, lowest since '42. Last year, condition at this time was 62, 10-year average 71. Favorable crops in Florida and the Carolinas; below average in Arkansas and Louisiana; poor prospects in Georgia, Alabama, Oklahoma and Texas.

Above Average Hay Crop

Hay crop, estimated at 104 million tons, will be less than the big crop last year but above average. Such production added to carryover of 16 million tons would be an adequate supply after figuring the increased number of roughage-consuming animals.

Pasture Condition Below Average

Pasture condition May 1 was 78 percent, compared with 74 percent year ago and the average of 82. Range pastures were retarded...poorest for May 1 since '37... condition below average in every range State. Early May rains brought some improvement.

Deciduous Fruit Prospects Better Than Average

As a whole, deciduous fruit prospects May 1 are above average...average for apples; above average for pears, sour cherries, and grapes; below average for peaches, apricots and sweet cherries.

Good Peach Crop in Georgia and Carolinas

Production of peaches in the 10 Southern States is average...17.7 million bushels compared with only 6.1 million last year. Large crops expected in the Carolinas and Georgia, also in California. Midwest and Northwest crops reduced by frost.

Citrus Output Better Than Expected

The orange estimate is now 111.6 million boxes, up nearly 3.4 million from month ago. Crop last season, 103.5 million; average, 96.1 million boxes. About 45 million boxes remained for harvest May 1 compared with 40 million year ago. Grapefruit at 44.4 million boxes compares with 36.5 million produced last season and 50.7 million average. Available for use May 1, 7.2 million boxes compared with 5.7 million year ago. California lemons are estimated at 13 million boxes, about an average crop but up from last year by 1.6 million boxes.

Early Potatoes Better Than Average

Condition of early potatoes (10 Southern States and California) now 84 percent of normal. Compares with 80 percent year ago and the May 1 average of 79. Condition equals or exceeds year ago in all States except Florida, and condition there is above average.

Tobacco Produced Last Year, 2 Million Pounds

All U. S. tobacco produced in '50 totaled 2,032,000 pounds (revised) compared with 1,973,000 pounds in '49.

Tobacco Crop Brought 1 Billion Dollars

Tobacco crop last year brought \$1,049,000,000 compared with \$905,000,000 in '49.

Cotton Produced Last Year, 10 Million Bales

Cotton produced in '50 totaled 10,012,000 bales, final ginnings. Compares with 16.1 million in '49 and '39-48 average of 11.6 million bales. Acreage under cultivation last year 18.6 million, was down a third from '49. 10-year average, 21.9 million acres.

4 Million Tons of Cottonseed

Cottonseed from the '50 crop totaled 4 million tons. In '49 the total was about 6.6 million tons. 10-year average, 4.7 million tons.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	Mar. 15 1951	Apr. 15 1951	Apr. 15 1951
Wheat, bu.dol.	2.12	2.14	2.40
Corn, bu.dol.	1.60	1.62	1.75
Peanuts, lb.ct.	10.8	10.8	13.1
Cotton, lb.ct.	42.73	43.17	33.73
Potatoes, bu.dol.	1.07	1.12	1.80
Hogs, 100 lb.dol.	21.20	20.60	21.40
Beef cattle, 100 lb.dol.	29.70	30.20	19.90
Veal calves, 100 lb.dol.	33.50	33.90	22.20
Lambs, 100 lb.dol.	35.00	34.30	21.80
Butterfat, lb.ct.	1/ 68.7	1/ 68.7	77.0
Milk, whsle., 100 lb.dol.	1/ 4.58	1/ 2/ 4.66	4.81
Chickens, live, lb.ct.	28.9	29.3	31.4
Eggs, doz.ct.	1/ 50.2	1/ 49.5	52.6

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

2/ Preliminary.

Lint Per Acre Last Year, Above Average

The 269.2 pounds average of lint cotton per acre in '50 was above the 10-year average yield of 261.3 pounds. The '49 average was 284 pounds. Yields were record high in Arizona and California; above average in Florida, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Texas; below average in other States.

Cotton Crop Brought 2 Billion Dollars

Value of last year's cotton crop was 2 billion dollars, compared with \$2.3 billion in '49. Cotton and cottonseed last year amounted to \$2.4 billion compared with \$2.6 billion in '49. Cotton averaged 40 cent pound last year; nearly 28.6 in '49.

1950 Meat Production, Up From Previous Years

Meat animals produced on farms in '50 amounted to 42.9 billion pounds, up 5 percent from the 40.9 billion pounds produced in '49 and 9 percent above the 10-year average. Total last year was second highest on record, exceeded only by the 46.6 billion in '43.

Milk Production Lower for April

Milk produced in April totaled 10.3 billion pounds, down a little from the 10.5 billion year ago. 10-year average for the month, 10.1 billion pounds. On a per capita basis, production was the lowest for April in 20 years—only 2.24 pounds per day per person.

Egg Production Close to Last Year's Total

The 6.3 billion eggs laid in April compares with 6.4 billion year ago and 6.2 billion average. January-April production totals 22.9 billion eggs compared with 23.3 billion year ago and 20.6 billion 10-year average.

Land Values at New High

For the country as a whole land values rose 14 percent during the past year ending March 1. Increases of 10 percent or more took place in two-thirds of the States. National index is now 193 or nearly double the 1912-14 average. The 8 percent increase past 4 months ending March 1 tops all previous increases for similar periods. Values are now 9 percent above the previous high reached in Nov. '48. They are above the 1920 (World War I) peak in all except 11 States. Fuller details in "Current Developments in the Farm Real Estate Market," released May 2.

Prices Received By Farmers Down a Little

Index of prices received by farmers dropped 2 index points or nearly 1 percent from Mid-March to Mid-April. The April index at 309 is 68 points above the 241 in April year ago. Record high, reached in February this year, 313. Lower prices for truck crops and dairy products accounts for most of the decline since March; but wool, most fruits, eggs and some meat animals were also lower.

Prices Paid at New All Time High

Prices paid (including interest, taxes, and farm wage rates) rose 3 index points to 283 percent of the 1910-14 base. This is a new high, 33 points above April year ago. Higher rates for farm labor main cause of the increase since March. Farmers also paid higher prices for some production items, such as seed and livestock.

Record Stocks of Soybeans

Soybeans in all storage positions are estimated at nearly 142 million bushels. Stocks are one sixth larger than a year ago. Despite a record rate of use by processors, stocks still are the largest of record.

Flaxseed Stocks Lower Than in '49 and '50

Flaxseed stored in all positions total about 26.5 million bushels. Stocks in previous years at this time were: 31.5 million bushels in '50, 29.3 million in '49 and 18.6 million in '48.

Larger Increases in Meat Production Ahead

Gains over last year in meat production are expected to be greater during the remaining months of '51 than those of the first quarter. Meat per person for the entire year may be 2 to 3 pounds larger than the 145 pounds consumed last year.

Larger Food Supplies Than Year Ago

Food supplies are expected to be larger this Spring and early Summer than a year ago. Requirements for the military are up but increased output will prevent reductions for civilians. Increases expected include lard, margarine, meat (particularly pork), fresh and frozen fruit and berries, and canned fruit juices. Likely increases also of milk and cream, ice cream, and eggs. Fewer fresh vegetables. Butter production relatively low.

Farm Income Up, Due to Higher Prices

Farmers' cash receipts from marketings first four months of '51 are estimated at 8.3 billion dollars. Receipts same period last year, 7 billion dollars. Most of the increase was from livestock and livestock products. Farmers got more money for about the same quantity marketed a year earlier. Little change in receipts from crops.

Little or No Gain in Purchasing Power

Farmers realized net income this year may total a fourth higher than in '50, may equal or exceed the previous peak year of '47. But production costs also will be higher. With non-agricultural prices substantially higher than in '47 the purchasing power of farm income will be less than in that year. Agriculture's share of the National Income will also be smaller than in '47.

Fewer People Working on Farms

The 10.4 million persons at work on farms last of April is about a quarter million less than the number at work in April a year ago and is a decrease of about a million workers from the post-war peak. Numbers have been decreasing, from a year earlier, for 30 consecutive months. But the number at work on farms in April was up about seasonally from March—16 percent for family workers and 11 percent for hired workers.

All Civilians At Work, 60 Million

U. S. civilian employment in April (Census) 60 million; April last year, 58.7. Unemployed 1.7 million, compares with 3.5 million April year ago.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	April 1951
Prices received by farmers....	'10-14=100	309
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes & farm wage rates.	'10-14=100	283
Parity ratio.....	'10-14=100	109
Wholesale prices of food.....	'10-14=100	1/ 290
Retail prices of food.....	'10-14=100	2/ 292
Farm wage rates	'10-14=100	3/ 479
Weekly factory earnings.....	'10-14=100	2/ 561
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-Apr. 1950	Jan.-Apr. 1951
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	38.3	37.5
Eggs, (bil.).....	23.3	22.9
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	4/ 1691	4/ 1667
Lamb & mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	4/ 140	4/ 123
Pork & lard (mil. lb.).....	4/ 2753	4/ 2933
All meats (dr. wt., mil. lb.)....	4/ 4734	4/ 4846
1/ Week ended nearest 15th of the month.		
2/ March figure.		
3/ April 1 adjusted for seasonal variation.		
4/ Jan.-Mar. under Federal inspection.		